

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /160 W

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O R 111150Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2952

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

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CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 9635

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT-SEPTEMBER 11, 1973.

GENERAL

1. ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT IT WAS SIHANOUK'S WEEK AS HE OBTAINED THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE'S ENDORSEMENT OF HIS CAUSE AND ADDED SIX NAMES TO THE GROWING LIST OF COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING HIS "GOVERNMENT". ON THE MILITARY FRONT, HOWEVER, VICTROY PROVED MORE ELUSIVE AS FANK EXTENDED AND REINFORCED ITS DEFENSE PERIMETER AT KOMPONG CHAM, WHICH FOR BOTH SIDES HAS NOW BECOME A MAJOR TEST OF STRENGTH AND WILL. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE OPENING OF A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO FREEZE THE SOVIETS OUT OF THE CAMBODIAN PICTURE, HSIHUA ATTACKED THE RUSSIANS FOR "SUPPORTING THE LON NOL CLIQUE AND NOT THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" WHILE SIHANOUK AND GRUNK PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH MADE HARASSING ATTACKS ON THE USSR'S DIPLOMATIC FLANKS.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. FORMER CHIEF OF STATE NOW VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL CHENG HENG CHIMED IN TO DENOUNCE SIHANOUK
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IN A SEPTEMBER 5 PRESS CONFERENCE. CHENG HENG AIMED ESPECIALLY AT SHOWING CONTRADICTIONS IN THE OLD AND NEW SIHANOUK AND QUOTED FROM THE PRINCE'S SPEECHES TO MAKE HIS POINT. THE OBJECT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE CAME OUT IN THE LAST OF CHENG HING'S MEASURED TEN-POINT DENUNCIATION: "HE DECLARES HE IS FIGHTING TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNIST CAMBODIA. WHAT THEN WILL HE SAY TO THE NON-ALIGNED HEADS OF STATE MEETING IN ALGIERS?"

3. THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR TELLS US THAT LOWERING THE DRAFT AGE FROM 31 TO 25 HAS RECEIVED CABINET APPROVAL AND IS NOW WITH THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL. COMMENT: WHILE THIS WILL ENLARGE THE POOL OF ELIGIBLES, THE GKR WILL BE REQUIRED TO REORGANIZE THE ADMINISTRATION OF CONSCRIPTION AND LAUNCH A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN TO PREPARE THE PUBLIC BEFORE MUCH CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THIS PROGRAM.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

4. FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET AND SUITE LEFT PHNOM PENH FOR THE UNGA SEPTEMBER 9. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT EFFORTS TO UNSEAT THE GKR WOULD FAIL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CAMBODIA IS "FACING REAL DIFFICULTY" FEEDING ITS PEOPLE AND THAT HIS MISSION IN BANGKOK WAS TO NEGOTIATE MORE RICE. PRESS SOURCES SAY THAT IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIHANOUK, THE GKR FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE "DID NOT EXCLUDE EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIHANOUK... IF HE IS PUT FORWARD BY THE INSURGENT FACTIONS". LONG BORET DOWNPLAYED K VPONG CHAM'S SIGNIFICANCE AND PROMISED THAT THE GKR WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT IF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL FELL.

5. NOTEWORTHY AMONG THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PREDEPARTURE CONTACTS WAS HIS SEPTEMBER DINNER IN HONOR OF CHIEFS OF MISSIONS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THE RUSSIAN, POLISH, EAST GERMAN, AND CZECH CHARGES ATTENDED. AKP' REPORT OF THE DINNER NOTED THE FOREIGN MINISTZJ'S REMARKS REAFFIRMING KHMER ASPIRATIONS FOR THE RETURN OF PEACE AND FOR PROGRESS AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING. THE RUSSIAN CHARGE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTEDLY REPLIED WITH A WISH FOR THE SPEEDY RETURN OF PEACE. (SEE ALSO GRUNK/FUNK EXTERNAL)

GRUNK/FUNK

6. EMPLOYING HIS HISTRIONIC TALENT TO MAXIMUM EFFECT, SIHANOUK REPAIRED SIGNIFICANT GAINS FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. GRUNK WAS SEATED WITH APPARENTLY NO FORMAL CHALLENGE OR DEBATE AND SIHANOUK WAS LIONIZED BY PRESS AND OTHER DELEGATES. HE NETTED RECOGNITION FROM GUYANA, OMAN, CENTRAL AFRICIAN REPUBLIC, UGANDA, ZAIRE AND TUNISIA AND SCORED A MAJOR VICTORY BY THE INSERTION OF STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR GRUNK AND CONDEMNATION OF THE U.S. AND GKR IN THE FINAL POLITICAL DECLARATION DESPITE

CLOSED SESSION OBJECTIONS FROM MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA. THE PARTICIPANTS DECLARED THAT GRUNK UNDER SIHANOUK IS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE AND LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA AND CALLED ON ALL NON-ALIGNED STATES TO RECOGNIZE GRUNK IMMEDIATELY. COMMENT: THESE ACHIEVEMENTS AND SELECTION OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE, WHO IS FRIENDLY TO GRUNK, AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE NON-ALIGNED AT THE UPCOMING UNGA, PROMISE A TOUGH FIGHT FOR THE CAMBODIAN SEAT AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

7. THE PRC HAS APPARENTLY LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO FREEZE THE RUSSIANS GZT OF ANY ROLE IN THE NEW LIBERATED KAMPUCHEA. THE CHINESE NEWS AGENCY HSINHUA, IN A SEPTEMBER 9 BROADCAST, CASTIGATED THE RUSSIANS FOR "FULLY AND CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTING THE... LON NOL CLIQUE BUT NOT THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE". HSINHUA CHARGED THE USSR WITH PROVIDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC AID, PERMITTING A KHMER SPORTS TEAM TO COMPETE AT MOSCOW, AND ADVOCATING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND COALITION GOVERNMENT. SOVIET SUPPORT FOR LON NOL WAS SEEN AS THE THIN EDGE OF THE REVISIONIST WEDGE SEEKING FUTURE "INFILTRATION AND EXPANSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA". THE BROADCAST TIED RUSSIAN DESIGNS IN CAMBODIA TO "AN ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM" WHICH IS REALLY AIMED AT SOVIET

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HEGEMONY IN ASIA IN REPLACEMENT OF THE US.

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7TH PSYOPS
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III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 9635

8. SIHANOUK AND GRUNK LAUNCHED COORDINATED ATTACKS ON THE SOVIETS. PENN NOUTH'S OFFICE ALSO TOOK A BACK-HANDED SWIPE AT THE RUSSIANS IN A SEPTEMBER 5 DENIAL THAT GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES HAD CONTACTS WITH THE GKR OUTSIDE CAMBODIA, "MORE EXACTLY IN MOSCOW". SIHANOUK HIMSELF TOOK ON THE RUSSIANS IN HIS USUALLY DRAMATIC STYLE DURING THE SEPTEMBER 7 SESSION OF THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. AFTER FIDEAL CASTRO'S PRO-SOVIET SPEECH, THE PRINCE BADGERED THE CHAIRMAN INTO RECOGNIZING HIM FOR AN IMPROMPTU, SHRILL INTERVENTION, IN WHICH HE ASKED CASTRO TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS WITH THE USSR TO BREAK ITS TIES TO LON NOL AND RECOGNIZE GRUNK, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KHMER FIGHTING US IMPERIALISM.

9. ON SEPTEMBER 7, PET BUN RET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS AS GRUNK AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA. HE IS ALSO AMBASSADOR TO MAURITANIA AND GUINEA.

10. SIHANOUK'S ENVOYS TO AUSTRALIS (SEE KHMER REPORT SEPTEMBER 4) POSTPONED THEIR ARRIVAL TO SEPTEMBER 20.

ECONOMIC

11. THE GKR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE WENT TO BANGKOK ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 TO ENGOTIATE A FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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25,000 MT OF RICE FOR CAMBODIA. AS OF SEPTEMBER 9 PHNOM PENH'S RICE SUPPLY STOOD AT 30 DAYS. THE TOWN OF KOMPONG CHAM HAS AT THIS TIME A THREE-WEEK RICE

SUPPLY ON HAND, BUT THE GKR RICE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT DISTRIBUTION IN THE TOWN WAS BEING HAMPERED BY THE IN-CITY FIGHTING.

12. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IS AWAITING AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS TO MAKE AVAILABLE \$1.2 MILLION FOR THE PURCHASE OF 5,000 MOT OF JAPANESE RICE. THE RICE SHOULD ARRIVE BETWEEN OCTOBER AND EARLY DECEMBER.

13. A SEVEN-VESSEL MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED UNSCATHED SEPTEMBER 4 BRINGING 1,500 MOT OF RICE, POL, GENERAL CARGO AND AMMUNITION.

MILITARY

14. KOMPONG CHAM'S CRITICAL SITUATION EASED SOMEWHAT AS FANK REINFORCED AND HALTED THE INSURGENT ADVANCE. THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER, WHICH HAD BEEN CONSTRICTED TO

INSIDE THE CITY'S EDGE, WITH ONE DAY OF FIGHTING IN THE CENTRAL MARKET PLACE, HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO THE K OUTHWEST. RTE 7 TO THE NORTHWEST IS STILL CUT, ISOLATING THE STILL-CLOSED AIRFIELD. NAVAL CONVOYS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSPORTED REINFORCEMENTS, ARTILLERY AND MUNITIONS FROM PHNOM PENH. NAVAL GUNFIRE AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG EASED PRESSURE AGAINST FANK POSIWOIONS THERE. THE CONTINUED ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS ALLOWED GOVERNMENT TROOPS TO BEGIN COUNTERATTACKS AGAINST ENEMY PENETRATION IN THE SOUTH OF THE CITY.

15. TO HELP RELIEVE PRESSURE ON KOMPONG CHAM, FANK LAUNCH AN OPERATION NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM. FANK CAPTURED FIFTEEN WOUNDED INSURGENTS AND EXTENDED THE EASTERN DEFENSIVE PERIMETER.

16. COMBAT ACTIVITY IN THE PHNOM PENHUZE REGION CONTINUED
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AT A LOW LEVEL. POCHENTONG AIRFIELD RECEIVED A LIGHT ROCKET ATTACK ON SEPTEMBER 7 CAUSING NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. THE LAST SUCH ATTACK WAS ON AUGUST 25. NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, THE SITUATION AT VIHEAR SUOR WORSENER. TWO FANK POSITIONS ARE ISOLATED AND ARE UNDER STEADY ENEMY PRESSURE. A SMALL RELIEF OPERATION HAS BEGUN. SOME 24 KM WEST OF PHNOM PENH INSURGENT FORCES KEEP CONTROL OVER A 1 KM OF RTE 4 NEAR ANG SNUOL, AND INTRODUCED A NEW CUT WEST OF KOMPONG SPEU.

17. IN THE NORTHWEST, INSURGENT TROOPS CUT RTE 5 SOME 19 KM SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG ON SEPTEMBER 6. CLEARING OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO REGAIN CONTROL OF A 3 KM ENEMY-OCCUPIED SEGMENT OF THE ROAD.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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